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ADDITIONS TO THE THIRTY-SIX INCH EQUATORIAL.

The Driving Clock of the large telescope is actuated by a weight of 600 lbs., which requires to be wound every two hours or so. The winding used to be done by hand, and was a severe labor, requiring as it did between four and five *foot-tons* of work. A PELTON water-wheel has lately been fitted inside the iron pier (February, 1891), and connected with the winding-shaft by belting, and the clock can now be wound in less than five minutes, by opening a valve in the clock-closet, which occupies the upper section of the iron pier. Something more than 2500 *foot-tons* of actual manual labor is thus spared to us each and every year. There is no accepted unit in which to express the worry which is saved to the observer by this simple apparatus.

Two or three other simple devices have been in use for the past year, which deserve mention, as they save time. A bell is sounded by the clock-weight in its descent five minutes before a new winding is necessary. The clock itself can be stopped or started by pulling a string which hangs down along the whole length of the east side of the pier, so as to be always within reach. A square wooden frame has been fitted over the object end of the telescope to carry a common spring-roller curtain to cover the objective. The curtain will always remain fully rolled up (the objective being thus uncovered), unless a string is pulled from the eye-end. At the end of a night's work the string is made tight and fastened, and the objective is thus protected from dust without taking the time to turn the object-end down and without putting on a special cover. All these are small things, but each of them has proved to be a decided convenience. E. S. H.

A BRILLIANT METEOR.

A shooting star of unusual size and brilliancy was seen to pass over this city about 10:50 o'clock last evening (March 13). The light was of a bluish cast. The star appeared to pass quite close to the earth.

—(From the San Francisco *Chronicle*, March 14, 1891.)